ON THE COVER: (Top) The process of harvesting sweetpotatoes involves digging the roots. Here the soil is turned over using large disks that bring sweetpotato roots to the surface. (Bottom) High quality, fresh-market sweetpotatoes (cultivar Covington) cured, washed and ready for sale.

SWEETPOTATO AS ONE WORD. Throughout this book, sweetpotato is deliberately spelled as one word unless directly quoting a source where it is spelled as two words (i.e., sweet potato). The one-word spelling was officially adopted by the National Sweetpotato Collaborators in 1989. Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*) must not be confused in the minds of shippers, distributors, warehouse workers, and above all consumers with the equally unique and distinctive potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) or the yam (*Diosporea* sp.) which are also grown and marketed commercially in the United States